

glomerules lateral on the main filaments, spermatangia on special ramuli in the vicinity. On *Myriocladia*, Guadeloupe.

C. EFFLORESCENS var. *THURETII* Bornet, l. c., p. XVI. *C. corymbifera* P. B.-A., No. 192. Frond arising from a basal disk, filaments 9-10 μ diam. below, slightly less above, branching from the base, branches alternate or secund, often ending in a hair; fertile branches one or more at the axil of a branch, simple or forked, bearing one or two spermatangia at the end; the trichogyne developed on a lower cell, succeeded by a dense glomerule of carpospores. On *Ceramium rubrum* and *Cystoclonium purpurascens*, Marblehead to Gay Head, Massachusetts.

MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE NEW ENGLAND LAURACEAE.

B. L. ROBINSON.

THE application of the rules of nomenclature, which were carefully framed by the International Botanical Congress at Vienna, necessitates many minor changes in current usage. The general tendency of the rules, however, is decidedly conservative and it is believed that all botanists who are seriously anxious for a unified nomenclature will endeavor to apply these rules with care and accept with patience any changes which they impose. It is also to be hoped that such alterations may be made in a manner to be as clear and convincing as possible. For this reason individual cases, involving complicated synonymy, may be appropriately discussed in some detail.

The attractive early-flowering Spice Bush or Benjamin Bush, common from New England southward and westward, has of late been passing in America under two scientific names, viz., *Lindera Benzoin*, the designation adopted in the later editions of Gray's Manual, and *Benzoin Benzoin* (L.) Coulter, the name employed in some more recent works. Neither of these binomials can be maintained under the Vienna rules, and it is therefore worth while to

examine the claims of the various competing names borne by the plant in the past. As to the generic names, they have been as follows:—

Laurus L. Spec. Pl. i. 370 (1753).

Benzoin Fabric. Enum. Meth. Pl. Helmstad. ed. 2, p. 401 (1763).

Lindera Thunb. Diss. Nov. Gen. 44 (1783).

Laurus, subg. *Euosmus* Nutt. Gen. i. 258 (1818).

Evosmus Reichenb. Conspec. 87 (1828).

Benzoin Nees ex Wall. Pl. As. Rar. ii. 63 (1831), and Laurin. Expos. 17 (1833).

Calosmon Presl in Kostel. Allg. med. pharm. Fl. ii. 477 (1833).

Of these generic names the earliest, i. e. *Laurus*, was used by Linnaeus to cover very different elements and is now properly limited in its application to the genuine laurel and closely allied species. The earliest post-Linnaean description of *Benzoin* by Fabricius in 1763 appears to have been generally overlooked until attention was called to it by Kuntze, Rev. Gen. ii. 568 (1891). No mention of this early publication of the genus *Benzoin* occurs in Bentham & Hooker's Genera, in the Index Kewensis, in Pfeiffer's admirable and extraordinarily complete Nomenclator, or in Mez's monographic treatment of the *Lauraceae*. Not having access to the rare second edition of Fabricius's Enumeratio methodica plantarum horti medici Helmstadiensis, the writer applied to Professor William Trelease of the Missouri Botanical Garden for a transcription of the treatment of *Benzoin* in that work. The copy which he very kindly sent runs as follows:—

“ **Benzoin* Boerh. Ind. alt. Arbor virginiana, citrei vel limonii folio, Benzoinum fundens Commelin. H. A. I. F. 97. virginiana, pisaminis folio, baccata, Benzoinum redolens Plucknet. Phytogr. T. CXXXIX. f. 3. *Laurus* foliis enerviis, ovatis, utrinque acutis, integris, annuis L. Sp. 9. Flores ante folia, vel statim cumeis prodeunt, ex una gemma plures, ut plurimum 3. vel 4. e viridi lutescentes, pedunculati, 4. plerumque bracteis ovatis, concoloribus, stipati, propter parvitatem difficiliter cognoscendi, certo tamen hermaphroditici, corolla ex 6. vel 8. laciniis vel petalis constante. Numerus filamentorum incertus, 8. vel 9. Antherae aureae splendentes, tuberosae. Germen, stilus & stigma Lauri. Nectarium & glandulae Linnaeanae vix distinguendae.”

From this description it will be seen that the genus *Benzoin* was briefly but adequately described in 1763 and that, both from the characters given and the synonymy cited, there can be no doubt whatever

of the application of the name even at this early date to our common Spice Bush. The later generic name *Lindera* must therefore fall into synonymy along with the discarded names of *Evosmus* and *Calosmon*.

Our plant has also borne several specific names, as shown by the following synonymy.

Laurus aestivalis L. Spec. Pl. i. 370 (1753).

“ *Benzoin* L. Spec. Pl. i. 370 (1753).

“ *fragrans* Salisb. Prod. 344 (1796).

“ *Pseudo-Benzoin* Michx. Fl. Bor.-Am. i. 243 (1803).

Benzoin odoriferum Nees ex Wall. Pl. As. Rar. 63 (1831).

Benzoin Benzoin Coult. Mem. Torr. Bot. Cl. v. 164 (1894).

Of these names *aestivalis* enjoys not only priority of time over all but *Benzoin*, but priority of position over the latter name, since it has precedence on the page of Linnaeus's *Species Plantarum*. It is true that this last matter is of little importance, since the combination *Benzoin Benzoin* is inadmissible according to the Vienna rules, but it may be remarked incidentally that this “duplicate monomial” (to employ an apt expression of the late Mr. Redfield) cannot stand even according to the Rochester Code which by giving weight to priority of position would necessitate the adoption of *Benzoin aestivale*. This is, therefore, one of the happy cases in which two sets of rules lead through different courses of reasoning to the same result, namely that *BENZOIN AESTIVALE* (L.) Nees is the correct name of our Spice Bush.

In employing the two names *Laurus aestivalis* and *L. Benzoin*, Linnaeus of course believed that he was applying them to two different plants, both collected by Clayton in Virginia, but the differences, not very clearly stated in the brief and formal Linnaean descriptions, have not been found reliable or significant in the light of subsequent study. The two species have been reduced to one by the best monographers of the group; and Mr. James Britten, who at the British Museum of Natural History has access to Clayton's original specimen of *B. aestivale* has been so kind as to verify for the writer its identity with the plant which has long passed as *Lindera Benzoin*.

Unfortunately our other lauraceous species, namely the Sassafras tree must likewise receive an unfamiliar name. The species is best known as *Sassafras officinale* Nees & Eberm., although in recent years some botanists have called it *Sassafras Sassafras* (L.) Karsten.

Neither of these names is applicable under the Vienna rules, the former because *officinale* is not the earliest specific name, the latter because a specific name may not exactly duplicate the generic. The synonymy is as follows:—

Laurus Sassafras L. Spec. Pl. i. 371 (1753).

“ *variifolia* Salisb. Prod. 344 (1796).

Euosmus albida Nutt. Gen. i. 259 (1818).

Tetranthera albida Spreng. Syst. Veg. ii. 267 (1825).

Persea Sassafras Spreng. l. c. 270 (1825).

Sassafras officinale Nees & Eberm. Handb. med.-pharm. Bot. ii. 418 (1831); Nees, Syst. Laurin. 488 (1836).

Sassafras albidum Nees, Syst. Laurin. 490 (1836).

“ *officinarum* J. S. Presl, Rostl. ii. 505 (1846).

Laurus albida Loud. ex Meisn. in DC. Prod. xv. pt. 1, 513, 516. (1864).

Sassafras Sassafras Karst. Pharm.-med. Bot. 505 (1882).

“ *variifolium* Ktze. Rev. Gen. ii. 574 (1891).

From this synonymy it is evident that the earliest available specific name is the one used by Salisbury, which has some thirty-five years priority over the current name *officinale*. The species should, therefore, pass hereafter as *SASSAFRAS VARIIFOLIUM* (Salisb.) Ktze. It is a pleasure to see that this name has already received scholarly recognition by Koehne, who employs it in his admirable *Deutsche Dendrologie* 172 (1893). The descriptive specific name is happily very appropriate.

GRAY HERBARIUM.